



THE SOURCE

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

**IN BONDAGE —
OR FREEDOM**

MARILYN COOK

PG6

SPEAKING LIFE

PG4

“Freedom”

July 2016

DOES JESUS CARE?

Do you feel like the multitude that Jesus saw – distressed and downcast? Do you see others around you discouraged and depressed, having no hope of being set free from the vicious circle of sin and sorrow in which they find themselves?

Jesus saw the lost people around Him and felt compassion for them. His compassion sent Him to the cross to pay the price and set them free - and to set us free as well!

Does Jesus care? Yes, He cares! He came to set us free from the bondage in which we find ourselves!

In this issue of The Source, Lucy Calcott shows her passion to speak life into the hearts of the children. Shane describes the church as reflecting the very heart of God, and therefore bringing hope!

A testimony from visitor Barack Antoine shows how God worked in his life to bring him hope and peace, and Godfrey talks of being free in Christ alone.

Scriptures from Romans 8 tie it all together and we are reminded that nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord!



*“...and seeing the multitude He felt compassion for them for them because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.”
Matthew 9:36*

*I came that they might have life and might have it abundantly.”
John 10:10*

My dear brothers and sisters, if it is freedom you seek, then I advise you to take Jesus and make Him the centre of everything in your family, your job, business, and relationships. Let Him be your guide.

He is calling you saying, "Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Jeremiah 33:3 He appeals to you with words of love that save, **"Return to Me and I will return to you."** Malachi 3:7

Jesus died that we may be free, so brothers and sisters, let us enjoy our freedom in the Lord.



Recent visitor to St Johns, Sophie Neville, is a speaker for Bible Society in the UK. She gave St John's shared about one of their projects, 'Open the Book'. This is a fun and easy way of telling Bible stories at your local school. You can read more about the project here: https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/?source_code=99012_openthebook.net

"Saved" by Bob Dylan

***I was blinded by the devil
Born already ruined
Stone-cold dead
As I stepped out of the womb
By His grace I have been touched
By His word I have been healed
By His hand I have been delivered
By His Spirit I have been sealed.***

***By His truth I can be upright
By His strength I do endure
By His power I've been lifted
In His love I am secure
He bought me with a price
Freed me from the pit
Full of emptiness and wrath
And the fire that burns in it.***

***Nobody to rescue me
Nobody would dare
I was going down for the last time
But by His Mercy I've been spared
Not by works
But by faith in Him who called
For so long I've been hindered
For so long I've been stalled.***

***I've been saved
By the blood of the lamb
Saved
By the blood of the lamb
Saved, Saved
And I'm so glad
Yes, I'm so glad
I'm so glad, So glad
I want to thank you, Lord
I just want to thank You Lord
Thank You, Lord.***

A HEALTHY HEART

Shane Dowinton

Recently, we held our quarterly church meeting where the St John's family gather to hear news on outreach, to discuss practical issues and to generally stir us up to 'more' for the kingdom. This time we thought we would try something different, we started at the heart and we worked our way outwards!

So often these days we are given a business model of 'church'. We see it as an organisation or a club which is able to affect good works in the community. And, of course, it can work that way because the fruit of our faith should be seen in good works. However, though fruit is important, fruit for the kingdom is only of lasting value or of great impact if the plant is healthy and the branches firmly grafted to the vine. God must be in it!

So instead we took time to look at the heartbeat of church, our time of fellowship each Sunday. It's an often overlooked or undervalued part of Christian life, it can become a duty or a "fix"; it can easily be a place of entertainment, we can come for "worship" or

the "word" but instead become attached to good music or a good talk; we can even become a bit offended if there is too much of the "spirit". The fellowship of believers is vital. Scripture tells us, 'Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...' *Hebrews 10:25*

The Old Testament model of fellowship was to bring God's people into His presence and involved processes of cleansing and sacrifice and even then "access" was still limited. In our New Covenant through Jesus, the veil that separated us from the intimacy of the Father's presence has been torn in two and we have permanent and intimate access to the Father by the Spirit, through Jesus. So, incredibly, when we gather in fellowship together we are united as the children of God, His family, into the Father's presence.

In that place of His presence is a wonderful life-giving opportunity. The best way I can think to describe it is as being drawn into God's heart. We come to the Father, the oxygen of our spiritual blood spent, and in His presence we are re-oxygenated and sent again. In His power we are drawn in, refreshed and then pumped out.

The process of re-oxygenating has a number of components. Wrapped up in the fellowship, which brings the Father great pleasure, are elements that make us aware of His imminence – God with us – His presence. When we worship Him we confess with our lips that He is God, worthy of our praise, thanksgiving and adoration. We surrender to His glory and put everything aside to put Him in the centre. When we receive the Word, we know that it is life; it gives us Truth and transforms us into the likeness of Christ. It reveals the Father to us. We share communion together and in it declare our love for Christ, our gratitude for the grace He has given us by His broken body and shed blood. We take it in unity as a demonstration of our fellowship in His name.

In His presence we are caught up and affected by His unending love for His children. The Holy Spirit ministers to us out of that love, encouraging, healing and in demonstration of His power. Ministry time is acknowledging that the Father is present and wants to touch each and every child gathered at His feet. We are made aware of the privilege of an open heaven, access to the Father, and the joy of prayer, our conversation with Him.



A lot has been done for people to be free physically, but little has been done to set them free emotionally and spiritually. Jesus Christ is the only one who is sent from God to set us free and give us life. John 10:10: "The thief came only to steal and kill and destroy, but I came that you may have life and have it to the full."

The death and the resurrection of Jesus brought about full freedom. Galatians 5:1 says, "For freedom Christ set us free. Stand firm therefore and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

Since then it is only God who is able to set us free on all levels, let us fix our eyes upon Him and leave the ways and the words of man as it is said in the scripture, ***"Let no man deceive you with empty words for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient."*** Ephesians 5:6.

Many think that if they get money and fame and respect, they will have peace, forgetting that peace can only come when you are free.

Many marriages are destroyed not by lack of money or respect, but because there is no peace. But how can they obtain peace if the Source of peace is absent? A job, or big profits don't give peace, for ***"What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?"***

Some think that if they get married and have a family, they will be free, but how can you run a marriage without the Author being present? In all that we do we need God to guide us; as humans we have a bad track record of messing things up. No one understands the product better than the manufacturer; God is our manufacturer – we are the product of His hands. For us to function freely and effectively we need God's guidance in all that we do. For nothing is too small for God to do. Man has the tendency to do things on his own, even though it has been proven countless times that anything done without God will result in failure. Therefore, if one seeks freedom he must turn to God and forsake his own ways.

God proved Himself to be mighty in physical battles, when he fought for the children of Israel in many battles beginning with the Egyptians to the Philistines. He gave the children of Israel land, wealth and good health. He then proved Himself able to comfort and help David. When he was sad, confused, hurt emotionally, or heartbroken he would always turn to the Lord for comfort, and the Holy Spirit of the Lord always came through for him.

God, furthermore, shows us that He is mighty in Spiritual Warfare.

FREE

Godfrey Lebese



Is freedom something you desire and long for? What is freedom and where do we get it?

- 1.** To be free is to be able to act as one wishes, not under the control of another.
- 2** No longer confined or imprisoned.
- 3** Something given or available without charge.

A person who is not free physically, may be in prison or in chains of slavery; these two states can happen to anyone, in any place, whether they are poor or rich, black or white. A person may end up in prison because of doing wrong, or being led by another to break laws. Sometimes they are falsely accused by a person who hates them. When it comes to slavery, the victim is often sold into bondage by someone he or she trusts.

I believe that bondage by imprisonment or slavery is the result of either ignorance or disobedience, or both.

Ignorance is the lack of knowledge or awareness in general – it is uneducated or unsophisticated. Ignorance lacks facts and the skill acquired by experience or education. Disobedience on the other hand is the refusal to obey rules or one in authority. Ignorance and disobedience may rob a person of their freedom and result in slavery.

So now we ask, can a person be wealthy and still be in bondage? Can a person surround themselves with lots of people, with friends, family or colleagues and still be a prisoner? I answer 'yes' because slavery can be physical, emotional or spiritual. Many people are free physically but they are not free emotionally or spiritually. The government can set you free physically, meaning that no one can go around beating you or taking what belongs to you, but the government cannot set you free emotionally or spiritually. Psychologists can set you free emotionally, but not spiritually. Only God through Jesus Christ can set you free physically, emotionally and spiritually.

And we give. We give because we can't out-give the Father. We are blessed by Him and entrusted with wealth in order to bless the world around us. The widow's penny added to the collection has an impact on the society we live in and the sound of the offering is heard and celebrated in heaven. In His presence we become aware of His generosity, "God is able to make all grace abound in you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

The family get together is a vital occasion. There is a sense of His pleasure when our reason for gathering is to be in His presence. There is joy in fellowship and unity and seeking Him for His sake and no other. And fruit becomes the natural outworking of time spent in the Father's presence, our family DNA is "Freely you have received, freely give".

I give thanks to the Lord for the fruit that is so abundant in our community and in the lives of so many who call St John's 'home'. It's the sign of a healthy heart.

***"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."
John 15:5***



Our Growing Sunday School

SPEAKING LIFE

Lucy Calcott

Every Sunday morning, I watch the 'little' congregation pile into church with such bright eyes and enthusiasm... That is when I truly realise what God meant, when He asked us to come to Him as children: honest, loving, so willing to please and learn.

As a church we have a huge responsibility, opportunity and gift in our children. Psalm 127:3 says: ***"Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from Him."***

The lessons we learn as children are likely to stay with us for the rest of our lives. Many famous leaders have talked about how 'offhand' words, spoken to them as children, have impacted and steered their choices in more ways than one. We have such a God-given opportunity to impact, to love and to show God's love to our impressionable children, each week with a future God already knows.



It is our responsibility as a church to seize God's challenge – to speak life into the children He sends us!

How do we show these children God's love? We show by example how a life hand-in-hand with God will look. From His strength comes our strength, and from HIS love, our love.

Pray for the futures of our children; that the bud God has placed in each one of their hearts will bloom and blossom.

Mathew 21:16 reads:

"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked Him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise?"

God LOVES the praises of children – and our simple guiding hands, our simple prayers can change our nation.

Inside our new Sunday school classroom. We have a beautiful new building just for teaching the children! No more hanging out of the trees and sitting on the grass. It is already it is bearing fruit for the Lord! Thanks to those who helped to build it!

THE KHOLOFELO ASSOCIATION - 'GIVING HOPE TO YOUTH'

The Kholofelo Association was formed in 2015 in South Africa in order to help youth who have completed their high school and desire to go on to study so that they are prepared for their life's work.

In this local community of Leseding/Vaalwater, there is a very high rate of unemployment so that the families are unable to put their youth into any tertiary education. After observing so many high school graduates sitting around with no jobs, no opportunities for jobs, and no way to attend an educational college, a board was organised and we have stepped out in faith to support these youth. During 2015 we had 7 we were supporting with school fees, accommodation, food or travel.

This year we have stepped out in faith to a greater degree and now have 12 students studying subjects such as electrical engineering, nursing, tourism, business management. At the end of their two-year courses they should qualify to get a job and be able to support themselves for further education.

We feel passionate about giving them this 'step up' to make something of themselves. Our desire is to see them able to marry and support a family and raise their children up in the Lord.

We have really stepped out beyond our own strength and ability, but the Lord is blessing and we trust Him for the future of this project.

**If you would like to help:
marilyn@mission2sa.org**

A YOUTH NIGHT OF PRAISE & WORSHIP

a gathering from youth
in many fellowships.

Watch for the
announcement of the
next one!





kid's club



*"Come bless
the Lord,
O my soul
And all that is
within me,
bless His
holy name."
Psalm 103:1*

*Above and Right:
Lethabo children
singing and praising at
Kid's Club.*



*Below: Thomas and
Marilyn at Kid's Club.*



*The aim of Lethabo
Kid's Club is two-
fold: First we seek to
teach the children
that Jesus loves them;
and secondly we want
to give them a good
protein source for their
physical bodies.*

THE FOLD

The amount of changes since our last report is astounding. We received our certificate from the social workers last year, so in January we opened our third house with 8 new children. We now have 24 children in our care. We opened our school for crèche, up to third grade. With our small classes, our children get more individual attention and at the end of the first term, everyone was doing well, including our children who were slow learners and couldn't do well in a regular class.

Unfortunately Teyani who has a genetic eye condition has gone totally blind in only a few months. We are still praying for his healing.

Improvements at The Fold are ongoing. Philip has really improved the overall appearance of the place. He has the garden doing well and has started the foundation of the chicken coop.

We had a golf day in February sponsored by Spur and Panarotti's, and had a very good outcome. We had a lot of visitors this year. Quite a few companies brought gifts and played with the children. We also had a freak hail storm which caused the roof of our vegetable tunnel to collapse. But we can still get it and the vegetables are still okay.

We have also realised that we are currently spending about R20,000 more a month than we have coming in. We couldn't find volunteers to help us, so we had to hire staff that

wasn't in the budget. We are in the process of fund raising to cover these costs and we have an open house day planned for 10 September 2016. Please come and visit us.



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IN BONDAGE – OR FREEDOM?

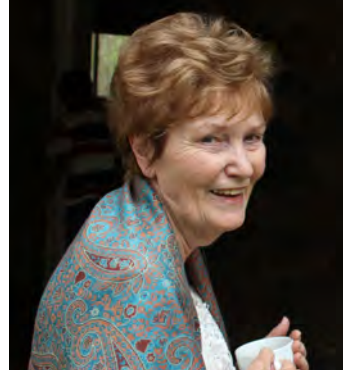
Marilyn Cook

Have you ever felt so bound up in sin that you felt there was no way out? With your mind and heart you knew what God wants in your life, but the flesh is so weak to run back to the sin you want to overcome. Maybe your problem is some addiction, or anger or bitterness, a critical nature, a habit of lying or laziness, sex or witchcraft.

The Apostle Paul suffered from sin that bound him, but he found hope in Jesus!

He discusses the battle he had with sin and hopelessness, saying, ***“O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”***

In Paul’s own words, we have: “I find then the principal that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am, who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.”



And Now the Good News!

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

to die because Jesus on the cross sacrificed Himself to set you free. You are free, and God is giving you a second chance to live. So stand up, raise up, go around the world and proclaim the goodness of God. Tell the people how God saved you."

She advised me to give my life to Jesus Christ and that He could heal me. I had no choice. I knew that I needed the compassion, the love that never fails, and the kindness of my Saviour, who is the hope of the nations. From that moment I understood that Jesus Christ is mighty to save and that He is able to move mountains. In other words, Jesus was able to heal my sickness. God had won my heart.

I felt joy in my heart, was happy and full of peace. Fifteen days later the Church baptised me. It was awesome!

Listen carefully to what I say, because God raised me from the dying. He can do it for you too. ***"All things are possible with God."***

After two years I started to preach the gospel.

Mark 16:15 says ***"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved."***

My friend, you don't have to be afraid, Jesus is able to save you and give you a new life and to bless you abundantly.



Visitors to St Johns: Baraka Antoine and The Expressions Worship Dance Team led in praise and worship through dance.

BARAKA ANTOINE

I was born in Tanzania, Arusha province. We moved to Burundi when I was 5 years old. I have a father (now deceased), mother, 4 sisters and one brother.

My parents were Christian, but I did not know Jesus Christ personally.

Ten years ago we moved again to the province called Makamb in Burundi.

At this time I started to go to disco parties and night clubs. I got involved in drinking, theft, prostitution and fighting.

In other words, I became a slave of Satan.

One day, in 2002, I heard a voice calling me and telling me, "Come to me all of you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."

Finally, in 2005, I became a Christian and received Jesus Christ in my heart as my Saviour.



How I became a Christian:

My family had a lady neighbor, called Kwizera, who was jealous of us. One day she decided to take my picture and she gave it to a witch called Rasheed, telling him that she wanted this boy killed in a spiritual ritual. She was going to sacrifice my life to the devil. She said to me, "I am going to kill you with witchcraft. After six days you will be dead. I want your soul."

I was filled with fear because of what she said.

The following day I became very sick, but I did not know what sickness it was. I went for

many check-ups and to many different doctors, but no one could see what was wrong with me. I could not sleep, and I felt like I was going to die.

A few days later, I met a prophet sent by God. Her name was Mom Deborah. She was attending the Church of Bujumbura and had come to pray for the sick. As she prayed for me, she heard a voice from God say to her ***"Tell Baraka that he was going to die this night, but that God says he is not going***

**How then do we
live according to
the spirit?**

**This is Critical
Because**

**There are many
Promises to
Those who Live
According to the
Spirit!**

"For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the spirit, the things of the spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile towards God, for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

"However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the Spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you are living according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live."

"For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

"But you have received a Spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out Abba Father!"

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

"...And if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him."

How Does the Spirit Help us?

"...and not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, for why does one also hope for what he sees? For if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it."

And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weaknesses, for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words, and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

How are we Predestined?

We are predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son. (Note this is not that some are chosen and others not chosen from the foundation of the world, but that those who choose Him are *"predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son."*)

It is God's will that He, Jesus, be the firstborn among many brethren. We are predestined, called, justified, glorified!

"If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies, who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us."

Victory in Him!

May you come to know the freedom that is found only in Jesus Christ our Lord!

*Jesus said,
"You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you FREE!"
John 8:32*

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written 'For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long.' We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered but in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

To be in bondage or to be free – the choice is up to each one of us. We have quoted a lot of Scripture, but I can't say it better than Paul did under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Please read Romans 7:14-24 and the whole of Romans 8 as I left out several verses which are also important. Read these words of scripture and digest them and let them become a part of you.

Waterberg Trust Ride for Charity

Shown below are the riders and their horses who took part in a week-long ride through the Waterberg. It wasn't an easy ride, but they accomplished their purpose and we say, "Well done"!



ST JOHNS CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Take the Melkrivier Road to the Twenty-Four Rivers sign. Turn right and travel 10 km. Turn left and left again into the church property.

9:15 for Praise and Worship
9:30 Service begins

*There is therefore now no
condemnation for those who
are in Christ Jesus."*

Romans 8:1

PURPOSE STATEMENT

To bring people to Jesus and membership in His family; to develop them in Christlike maturity and equip them for their ministry in the church and life mission in the world in order to glorify God.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

ELDERS:

Alan van Coller	014 755 4549 or 073 179 4313
Joan Baber	014 755 4087 or 078 910 9411
Peter Farrant	014 755 3661 or 082 569 9147
David Baber	014 755 4430 or 083 273 4525
Philip Calcott	014 755 4425 or 078 207 8570
Barend Pretorius	072 414 9986
Craig Pidduck	082 775 8489

OFFICERS:

Chairman of Council – Shane Dowinton	014 755 4009 or 083 419 1929
Church Secretary – Wendy Godfrey	078 118 1737
Church Cell Phone	073 380 9444
Treasurer – Simone Baber	014 755 4430 or 083 302 5123

Banking Details: FNB Modimolle, Branch no 260247
Account no 531 746 01684

PLEASE JOIN US:

Wednesday Cell Meeting is at 6:00 at Craig and Trish Pidduck's.
Currently studying Prophecy!
Phone Craig on 082 775 8489

Do you have information for The Source?
Contact: Marilyn Cook, 014 755 4142 or 084 805 2199
marilyn@mission2sa.org